



UC MERCED ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

SUPPORTING EXPANSION OF RELIABLE & EFFICIENT PASSENGER TRAIN SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY
JANUARY 28, 2017

PURPOSE: TO SUPPORT EXPANSION OF THE AMTRAK SAN JOAQUIN AND ALTAMONT CORRIDOR EXPRESS TRAIN SERVICES IN CONJUNCTION WITH CALIFORNIA HIGH SPEED RAIL.

Whereas, the UC Merced Community consists of over 6,000 Students, over 7,000 alumni, hundreds of faculty and staff—UC Merced is on a rapid growth trajectory with the 2020 Project underway to ambitiously expand campus to grow to 10,000 students by 2020; furthermore, sustainability and environmental stewardship are key principles of the UC Merced Community that reach deep into California and beyond;

Whereas, the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority (SJJPA) manages the Amtrak San Joaquin Train Service between Bakersfield, Merced, Oakland, Sacramento, and intermediate points;

Whereas, the San Joaquin is Amtrak's 5th busiest route at 365 miles, 18 stations, 1.2 million annual riders and provides a safe, comfortable, reliable way to travel throughout California. In addition to the train service, Amtrak San Joaquin Thruway buses provide connecting service to 135 destinations in California and Nevada including Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, San Diego, Napa Valley, Las Vegas and Reno;

Whereas, the San Joaquin has 5 daily roundtrips between Bakersfield and Oakland as well as 2 daily roundtrips between Bakersfield and Sacramento—the 5th roundtrip train to Oakland was added in June 2016; the first expansion to the service in 14 years and the first in 23 years to the Bay Area;

Whereas, the Altamont Corridor Express (ACE) is owned and operated by the San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission under the auspices of the SJJPA; ACE operates four weekday roundtrip trains between Stockton and San Jose, a 86 mile route with 10 stations—with a planned expansion to Merced by 2023; also, the two roundtrip Sacramento San Joaquin trains connect to ACE in Stockton;

Whereas, The San Joaquin and ACE train services are a huge benefit to the San Joaquin Valley communities including UC Merced by providing vital environmentally sustainable and reliable travel options in the heart of California—additional trains would provide added convenience to riders and support economic growth;

Whereas, the construction of the California High Speed Rail System has begun but operations are many years away, so the San Joaquin is currently the only passenger rail service connecting Merced to the rest of California;

Be it resolved: that the UCMAA supports expansion of the Amtrak San Joaquin Train Service connecting Merced with Sacramento, Southern California, and the Bay Area.

Be it further resolved: that the UCMAA supports expansion of the Altamont Corridor Express train service to Merced providing faster and more convenient train service between the South Bay Area and the San Joaquin Valley.

Be it additionally resolved: that UCMAA also supports an integrated plan between the Amtrak San Joaquin, Altamont Corridor Express, and California High Speed Rail to ensure effective, efficient, and environmentally sustainable travel options throughout the San Joaquin Valley and beyond;

Be it finally resolved, that UCMAA shall transmit this resolution to the San Joaquin Joint Powers Authority, San Joaquin Regional Rail Commission, UC Merced Chancellor, UC Office of the President, UC Board of Regents, and any other persons or organizations deemed appropriate by the UCMAA President.